

# MEMO

**DATE:** September 15, 2003

**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee

**FROM:** Charles Keynejad, Senior Regional Planner  
(213) 236-1916 or [keynejad@scag.ca.gov](mailto:keynejad@scag.ca.gov)  
Environmental Planning Division

**RE:** Update on Transportation Conformity Issues

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only.

**SUMMARY:** SCAG has communicated to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) its concern associated with establishing transportation conformity emissions budgets in the 2003 Ozone Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)/the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

## **BACKGROUND:**

The current Ozone AQMP/SIP for the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) is being updated in compliance with the federal requirement to use the latest planning assumptions, including the new emission factor model (EMFAC 2002). The transportation activity input to this AQMP/SIP update is based on SCAG's 2001 Regional Transportation Plan.

The 2000 census actual data indicate that the socio-economic data (SED) for the year 2000 for Ventura County are higher than the data incorporated into the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The 2001 RTP was developed with SED (population, housing, etc.) provided to SCAG by local governments in the region. The population and housing figures provided to SCAG by Ventura County were under-estimated. The 2000 census actual data shows a total Ventura County population of 758,096 for the year 2000 (the base year), while the Ventura County population provided to SCAG for use in the 2001 RTP was 739,570.

In early September, ARB and VCAPCD provided SCAG with the preliminary emissions budgets they developed by using the lower numbers in the 2001 RTP. SCAG's rough examination of the preliminary emissions budgets for the year 2005 (attainment year) shows the NOx (nitrogen oxide) and ROG (reactive organic gas) emissions to be under-estimated by 2.2 tons per day (t/d) and 1.5 t/d respectively if the air agencies use the 2000 census actual data. **This is a significant issue that the 2003 Ozone AQMP/SIP must address and resolve.** SCAG communicated this matter to ARB and VCAPCD by letter on September 11, 2003. A copy of the letter is attached.

In addition, to comply with federal transportation conformity requirements, SCAG has to use the latest planning assumptions for conformity analysis and finding of the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This includes use of the 2000 census data and the new Caltrans heavy-duty truck information and data. The Caltrans new heavy-duty truck information and data are also higher than the ones incorporated into the 2001 RTP. SCAG is adjusting the 2001 RTP data according to the new heavy-

Doc.90471Keynejad

duty truck information and data. For conformity purpose, it is essential to provide consistency between the air quality and regional transportation planning processes.

SCAG is working with the air agencies to resolve all related issues.

## **A Note on the State Funding Shortfall**

Since the staff July presentation to the EEC members on the State funding shortfall, there were several communications between Caltrans and the federal agencies: the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The federal agencies have required proof of the financial constraint of the 2002 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) as a pre-requisite for approving any new TIP amendments. This is due to the fact that the State has postponed funding of a significant portion of the Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds until the year 2009.

To pass the conformity tests for the 2004 RTP, SCAG and the projects sponsors must demonstrate compliance with the timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs). This means that all TCM projects in the first two years (fiscal years 2002/03 and 2003/04) of the 2002 RTIP must be reported as funded and on schedule. Particularly, the implementing agencies should fully fund those TCM projects that are in part or fully funded with (TCRP) funds. SCAG's 2002 RTIP shows that an amount of \$924 million of TCRP funds is programmed in the TCM projects within the first two years (2002/03 and 2003/04). All TCM projects funded with the TRCP funds are in the South Coast Air Basin.

Also, the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) fund estimate has been delayed and will be available in December. SCAG is working with the County Transportation Commissions, the funding agencies, and a special Statewide Task Force created by the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) to address all related issues.

The Committee members will be updated on any new development on the related matters at the October meeting.

## Interagency Memorandum

September 11, 2003

*Bob*  
Mr. Robert Fletcher  
Chief of Planning & Technical Support Division  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 "T" Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

*Scott*  
Mr. Scott Johnson  
Manager  
Planning & Evaluation Division  
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District  
669 County Square Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ventura, California 93003

Dear Messieurs Fletcher and Johnson:

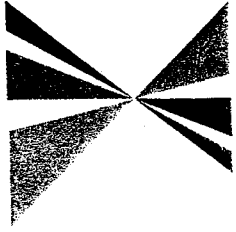
SCAG is bringing to the attention of the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) concerns associated with establishing transportation conformity emissions budgets in the 2003 Ozone Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP)/the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The 2000 census data indicate that the socio-economic data (SED) for the year 2000 are higher than the data incorporated into the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The 2001 RTP was developed with SED (population, housing, etc.) provided to SCAG by local governments in the region. The figures provided to SCAG for Ventura County were under-estimated. The 2000 census actual data shows a total Ventura County population of 758,096 for the year 2000 (the base year), while the Ventura County population used in the 2001 RTP was 739,570.

Use of the under-estimated population in the 2001 RTP would result in under-estimated planning inventories and the related on-road emissions budgets. ARB and VCAPCD have provided SCAG with the preliminary emissions budgets developed by using the lower numbers in the 2001 RTP. SCAG's rough examination of the preliminary emissions budgets for the year 2005 (which is the attainment year) shows the NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG emissions to be under-estimated by 2.2 tons per day (t/d) and 1.5 t/d respectively if the air agencies use the 2000 census actual data. This is a significant issue that the 2003 AQMP/SIP must address and resolve.

In compliance with the federal transportation conformity requirements, SCAG has to use the latest planning assumptions for conformity analysis and finding of

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of  
GOVERNMENTS**

**Main Office**

818 West Seventh Street  
12th Floor  
Los Angeles, California  
90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)

**Officers:** President: Mayor Bev Perry, Brea • First Vice President: Councilmember Ron Roberts, Temecula • Second Vice President: Supervisor Hank Kuiper, Imperial • Past President: Councilmember Ronald Bates, Los Alamitos

**Imperial County:** Hank Kuiper, Imperial County • Jo Shields, Brawley

**Los Angeles County:** Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Los Angeles County • Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County • Melanie Andrews, Compton • Harry Baldwin, San Gabriel • Paul Bowlen, Cerritos • Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles • Margaret Clark, Rosemead • Gene Daniels, Paramount • Mike Dispenza, Palmdale • Judy Dunlap, Inglewood • Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles • Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles • Frank Gurulé, Cudahy • James Hahn, Los Angeles • Janice Hahn, Los Angeles • Sandra Jacobs, El Segundo • Tom LaBonge, Los Angeles • Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach • Martin Ludlow, Los Angeles • Keith McCarthy, Downey • Llewellyn Miller, Claremont • Cindy Miskowski, Los Angeles • Paul Nowatka, Torrance • Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica • Alex Padilla, Los Angeles • Bernard Parks, Los Angeles • Jan Perry, Los Angeles • Beatrice Proo, Pico Rivera • Ed Reyes, Los Angeles • Greig Smith, Los Angeles • Dick Stanford, Azusa • Tom Sykes, Walnut • Paul Talbot, Alhambra • Sidney Tyler, Jr., Pasadena • Tonia Reyes Uranga, Long Beach • Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles • Dennis Washburn, Calabasas • Jack Weiss, Los Angeles • Bob Yousefian, Glendale • Dennis P. Zine, Los Angeles

**Orange County:** Chris Norby, Orange County • Ron Bates, Los Alamitos • Art Brown, Buena Park • Lou Bone, Tustin • Richard Chavez, Anaheim • Debbie Cook, Huntington Beach • Cathryn DeYoung, Laguna Niguel • Richard Dixon, Lake Forest • Alta Duke, La Palma • Bev Perry, Brea • Tod Ridgeway, Newport Beach

**Riverside County:** Marion Ashley, Riverside County • Ron Loveridge, Riverside • Jeff Miller, Corona • Greg Pettis, Cathedral City • Ron Roberts, Temecula • Charles White, Moreno Valley

**San Bernardino County:** Paul Biane, San Bernardino County • Bill Alexander, Rancho Cucamonga • Edward Burgnon, Town of Apple Valley • Lawrence Dale, Barstow • Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace • Susan Longville, San Bernardino • Gary Ovitt, Ontario • Deborah Robertson, Rialto

**Ventura County:** Judy Mikels, Ventura County • Glen Becerra, Simi Valley • Carl Morehouse, San Buenaventura • Toni Young, Port Hueneme

**Riverside County Transportation Commission:** Robin Lowe, Hemet

**Ventura County Transportation Commission:** Bill Davis, Simi Valley

the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This includes use of the 2000 census data for the base year of 2000 and the new Caltrans heavy-duty truck information and data. The Caltrans new heavy-duty truck information and data are also higher than the ones incorporated into the 2001 RTP. SCAG is adjusting the 2001 RTP data according to the new heavy-duty truck information and data. For conformity purpose, it is essential to provide consistency between the air quality and regional transportation planning processes.

We appreciate your attention and timely action on these matters. If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 236-1944 or Mr. Charles Keynejad, Senior Regional Planner at (213) 236-1915. For technical information, please contact Mr. Hong Kim, Senior Regional Planner at (213) 236-1904.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hasan Ikhrata", written in a cursive style.

Hasan Ikhrata, Director  
Department of Planning and Policy

Doc # 90238 Keynejad